

**Practical Dietary Computer.** By Amy E. Pope, New York: Putnam, 1917. Price \$1.25.

This volume contains 156 pages of closely packed tables on the following subjects: (1) food requirements, kind and quantity with reference to age, weight and sex; (2) carbohydrate, fat, protein, purin, calcium and iron content of certain food substances; (3) composition and caloric value of common foods and beverages; (4) diabetic foods; (5) carbohydrate equivalents; (6) recipes.

The book is of distinct value to the specialist, the general practitioner and the nurse. The information that it contains is so arranged as to be readily available in practical every-day work.

W. K.

**Hand-Book of Operative Surgery.** By Wm. I. Wheeler. 364 pages. Third edition, New York: Wood, 1918. Price, \$3.50.

An introductory note by Sir Alfred Keogh says: "The work itself is intended for junior practitioners in surgery, and assuredly there never was a time when guidance for the young surgeon was more needed."

The book was quite evidently originally written as a guide to a course in operative surgery on the cadaver. The classical academic operations, ligation of vessels and amputations are fully explained; other procedures, laminectomy, and operations on the heart and lungs, for instance, are not discussed at all. Over two-thirds of the work are given over to operations on the extremities. It describes mainly well-established procedures; some of its teachings, however, will scarcely meet with wide approval,—the use of chisel and mallet in osteoplastic trephining, the implantation of silver sheets to close defects of the skull, etc. The explanations are lucid and practical and the illustrations are good. The commoner operations of military surgery are so well described that it may be especially commended to younger medical officers who may be called upon to face surgical responsibilities with which they have had no previous experience.

L. E.

**The Third Great Plague, a Discussion of Syphilis for Everyday People.** By John H. Stokes, A. B., M. D., Chief of the Section of Dermatology and Syphilology, The Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota. 12mo of 204 pages, illustrated. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company, 1917. Cloth, \$1.50 net.

The leading thought of this work is that, in spite of all advances by medical science, in regard to syphilis people at large are still ignorant. The author urges the use of plain English when discussing syphilis, and we heartily agree with him when he says that "it is a direct move in favor of vulgar thinking to misname anything which involves the intimacies of life." We only hope that Stokes' plea to think of syphilis as a medical and sanitary problem only, and to separate, at least temporarily, the question from our thought about morals and allied questions will be considered.

Two statements, however, must be taken cum grano salis, the one (p. 78) that salvarsan "stirs the germs up before it kills them" and the other (p. 79) that 24 hours after a salvarsan injection "scarcely a living germ remains."

The author's recommendations for the systematic treatment and saving of a certain class of hereditary syphilitic children are very timely, and his sane views on the question of compulsory reporting will be endorsed by every thinking and fair-minded physician.

The work is well written and holds the interest; it is mostly intended for the educated lay reader, but should be widely read by physicians; even the experienced syphilologist, while finding no new facts, may learn how to talk to his patients, and mainly how to influence the large number of the "I don't care" class amongst them.

V. G. V.

**Treatise on Regional Surgery.** By Various Authors. Edited by John Bairbairn Binnie. 3 volumes. Philadelphia: Blakiston, 1917. Price, \$7.00 per volume.

It is easy to foretell a long life and many editions for this work. Binnie says in the preface that each collaborator has been urged to record personal opinions, rather than to state what others think. It is remarkable how uniformly the various writers have succeeded. Some may have even gone too far in considering their own personal hobbies and achievements. Many of them have interjected numerous case histories. To give space to such particular details is unwarranted in a book which aims to be—and is—a succinct exposition of essentials. A "case" is rarely of interest to others than the author.

Space prohibits the detailed review this work should receive. With few exceptions the articles are so good that it is easier to pick small single flaws than to give to them all just praise. The sections on genito-urinary surgery and neurological surgery are especially good. They give most useful information in borderline subjects, conservative and medical treatment, diagnosis, etc. Sir Robert Jones and others have completed an admirable orthopedic section. Only the chapter on surgery of the brain is wanting. Binnie says that he has omitted it for lack of a proper collaborator. It is a pity that this one chapter should be missing. It is to be hoped that the gap may be filled in later editions. It would be of advantage to set a short bibliography at the end of each chapter as Mayo has done in the chapter on the rectum, rather than scatter the references through the body of the reading matter.

The book gives just what is needed. It really fills a long-felt want. There has been nothing in English comparable to Wullstein-Wilms' text. Binnie and a list of men like Mayo, Sir Robert Jones, Bloodgood (and including Stillman and Rixford of San Francisco) have given us a work that will long remain the companion and guide of students and practitioners. It is far and away the best there is in the English language. It should forerun similar collaborative texts of internal medicine, gynecology, pathology, etc.

L. E.

**The Medical Clinics of North America.** Volume 1, Number 4 (The Boston number, January 1918). Octavo of 401 pages, 128 illustrations. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company, 1918. Published bi-monthly. Price per year: Paper, \$10.00; Cloth, \$14.00. Contents:

Henry A. Christian: Complete heart-block. Partial heart-block with Stokes-Adams syndrome. Chronic myocarditis. E. P. Joslin: Severe diabetes. J. L. Morse: Empyema in children. W. P. Graves: Ovarian organotherapy. E. A. Locke: Osteitis deformans with sarcoma of humerus. C. J. White: Premature loss of hair. F. B. Talbot: Eczema in childhood. H. A. Barnes: Vincent's angina. A. W. George, R. D. Leonard, F. W. O'Brien: Roentgen diagnosis of disease of upper right abdominal quadrant. J. B. Hawes: Early diagnosis chronic ulcer stomach and duodenum. K. H. Thoma: Relation of teeth and jaws to general medicine. G. R. Minot: Pathologic hemorrhage. A. W. Sellards: Amebic dysentery and associated conditions. J. B. Ayer: Focal transverse lesions of spinal cord. R. M. Smith: Pyelitis of infancy. I. C. Walker: Cause and treatment bronchial asthma. G. W. Holmes: X-ray examination of heart and great vessels.

**History of Medicine.** Suggestions for study and Bibliographic Data, by Fielding H. Garrison, A. B., M. D., Principal Assistant Librarian, Surgeon General's Office, Washington, D. C. Second edition revised and enlarged. Octavo of 905 pages with many portraits. W. B. Saunders